Japanese Woodcuts
The Coutesan
by Anchi (1714)

The San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

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S.D.A.C.F. Bulletin Boards

S.D.A.C.E. 8-bit BBS
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(619) 566-3430

S.D.A.C.E. ST BBS
Sysop: Rick DeHaven
(619) 284-3821

Submissions To The Newsletter

are most welcome, and are due by the third Monday of the month, for the next month's newsletter. Mail printed copy or returnable disks with text files (ST single sided format please) to the club's P.O. Box, or upload the file to one of the S.D.A.C.E. bulletin board systems.

Buy/Sell/Trade

ads, available on a space-available basis, are free to club members. The Editor will accept ads at meetings, through the club's P.O. Box, or via telephone. Deadline for classifieds is the same as articles.

Editor's Bits

Hello once again. It's about 108 degrees as I type this, and I am bathed in sweat. This weather is unbearable, but I guess it's only temporary.

I wasn't able to make the AtariFest in Glendale, but others from SDACE were there, and I heard it was good. Atari was there, along with many software companies, displaying their wares and warez. It was a success, I'm told. We'll have a report on what went on at the show soon.

A replacement for the job of newsletter editor has been found in Tom Bryant. Hopefully, he should be able to take over within two months or so. I extend my thanks to the other interested people. Thanks for the support.

Oh, in case you haven't heard, Atari has bought the Federated chain of stereo and computer retailers for $67.3 million. Jack Trammiel should be bringing his 'no holds barred' theories of marketing and capitalism to the stereo industry, probably putting Mad Jack's, DOW and Circuit City out of business by December, if all goes well (that's sarcasm, in case you didn't guess). The purchase will give Atari some control over the retail end of ST sales, also. The Mega ST's, incidentally, will not be sold through Federated.

Speaking of Mega's, they're here! Oh my god! Well, Atari's taken half a year longer than anticipated, but they have Blitters (which are very nice, I'm told) and are in at least two major local retailers at this time. They come in 2 and 4 meg versions (the ST2 and ST4, respectively), and probably go for around $1700 for a 2 meg system, and $2200 for a 4 meg. The Mega ST's, if you're not familiar with them, sport detachable keyboards, internal clocks, Blitters, 800K internal drives (styled more like the Amiga), and the new version of the TOS ROMs. They're fully compatible with the existing ST line, and I want one.

The 8-bit SIG is still going well, although the last meeting was a little weak, with less than 20 people showing up. Come on you guys! By not showing up to the meetings, you're ruining all that Ron Miller and the Beckers are trying to do. The 8-bit club is not dead yet, but it will be someday soon if more support is not shown. So mark you calendar! The next 8-bit meeting is **Thursday, the November 1st**. Be there! There are lots of new products to be seen, so show up, please.

A reminder: The December meetings are skewed. There will be ONE meeting, on the first Thursday of the Month (the 3rd of December), at the North Park facility at 6:30. Elections will be held at this General Meeting, and then they will split into the 8-bit and ST meetings. Everyone be there!

Speaking of elections, the time is here to be thinking of running for a public office. The SDACE Nomination Comittee has been appointed by the President, and they'll be calling up members to talk about this. We're not asking for computer wizards or long running members of SDACE; just people who want to help others within the club. We want you! Our little club can't survive without your support and the support of everyone (I said EVERYONE!), so please, if you've got the time and the will, give it some thought. The elected offices are: President, 8-bit Vice President, ST Vice President, Secretary and Tresurer. Thanx.

Incidentally, the membership rates will be going up next year to $20. This will be voted on by the membership soon. Costs are going up, especially Newsletter costs. If you want to sign up for $15 instead of the higher price, do so at soon as possible, and save yourself the money. We've recently had to start mailing our newsletter first class, because our Bulk Rate mailing costs were getting more expensive! We spend around $70 each month for copying, and around $40 for postage costs. We never take in more than half of that in advertising monies. Therefore, the newsletter is a big drag on expenses, and is the main reason the club's been having the financial diffuclties it's been having. Do you want to help? Talk to your local computer retailer, ask him why he's not advertising. If he does advertise, let him know you're reading them. When you buy something, mention the I/O Connector, and the ad you saw. That'll help a lot.

Do you like computer games? Do you have a modem? Well, give the Computer Boulevard BBS a call. The number is 589-0565, and 300-2400 baud is supported. There's a new Galactic Empire type game online, in which up to 25 players try to amass worlds in a vast empire, and beat off their competitors. It's a fun game, and has really caught on. While you're on, engage in conversaion in the message bases, or check out the downloads. I'll see you there.

– Peter Payne

ST Educational Software News
by Lois Hansen
Reprinted from The SLCC Journal

In preparation for the WORLD OF ATARI fair, I called up some of the software companies known to be producint educational software for the ST. I thought that some of you who didn't make it to the fair might like to know some of the news:

Unicorn: Perhaps the most exciting news is from Unicorn. They have come out with no less than *ten* educational programs for the ST and they have several more programs which are close to release. I spoke with the president of Unicorn, Jeff Stark, who told me that they have **abandoned** writing educational software for the Mac because Apple is now trying to position it as a business machine and retailers don't want to display educational software for the Mac. Unicorn is continuing to write for the Amiga and will get involved with the Apple //gs, but at least at this point, their main thrust is the Atari ST. Jeff said that Unicorn has been designated the "official" Atari ST educational software line, and will be offered to retailers by Atari as part of the package when they sign up new dealers. If you have comments about their products, want to ask for specific kinds of software in the future, or simply want to encourage them to continue to develop more educa-tional software for the ST, give them a call. The number's right there in your documentation. They're only in Las Vegas. When I called, the President answered the phone.

The newest products just released from Unicorn are Read-a-rama for ages 5-8, a 2-disk program that does pictures to words and will accept input words, and Aesop's Fables, a reading comprehension program for the same age group. This program took 8 months to develop, is on two disks, has 12 animated stories, and 1000 words of vocabulary Q & A. Coming soon are two more: Magical Myths, a reading com-prehension program for grades 4-8, and Word Master, a vocabulary builder for grades 3-8. Word Master will accept user input words, and additional data disks of words are planned.

First Byte: I also spoke with Richard Jacks, vice president of Engineering at First Byte. Their specialty is talking programs for the ST; the obvious application is for pre-readers, but "reluctant" readers will find the First Byte talking math tutorial; the four basic operations, Mathtalk, very helpful. Richard told me about some other programs out now or coming soon: Out now is First Shapes, a preschool program that talks, and Mad Libs, based on the party game of the same name. There is also another Mathtalk, about fractions, percents and decimals, and another pre-school program, First Letters and Words. Also planned for release soon is Smooth-Talker, not an educational program per se, but a program which will speak (or spell) any ASCII file your word processor can give it. This has obvious applications in beginning reading, and Richard said that Mac users in universities have used it as a kind of group class notes review session facilitator. Gather around the ST the way their grandparents gathered around the radio... He said it was also useful for checking input to spreadsheets. This program, like all the First Byte line, will list at $49.95. A bargain in this latter case; some of us may want to call this company (which has an 8(number) and tell them what we think of $5... as a price for kids' software which costs considerably less than $1000. But be ready to counter their wails about development costs with your claims of numerous friends ready to buy educational software at a fair price.

Spinnaker: Bad news from these folks. Their support for the 8-bit line had been discontinued a while ago, and they are now ceacing distribution of their excellent math program, Homework Helper, and their graphic adventure series based on classic text like Treasure Island.

Atari Corp has finally released its cheap ($18.95 for two disks!) educational software for the ST developed by the Arrakis Advantage Company. There are allegedly five packages of Algebra, two of Geometry, one each of Statistics and Trigonometry, four of Biology, and two each of Chemestry and Physics. I have seen Algebra, Geometry and Chemistry in the flesh at the show. Atari Corp gave us the Algebra I and Geometry I packages which I will t evaluating and reporting about later.

S.D.A.C.E. Classifieds

LISTING OF SAN DIEGO AREA ATARI BBSs

Area code 619, 300/1200 BAUD, 24 hours a day
unless otherwise noted

Code	Name	Computer	Baud	Number
3	Fred's Place	8-bit	2400	560-8173
3	Polaris	8-bit	3/12	566-6210
3	The Highlands	8-bit	3/12	298-8475
	The Atari Fortress	8-bit	3/12	426-4253
3	8-bit SDACE	8-bit	3/12	566-3430
1	Penthouse Suite	8-bit	3/12	279-2722
1	Sherwood Forest	8-bit/ST	3/12	276-5603
1	! Aardvark	8-bit/ST	2400	272-5553
4	ST-SDACE	ST	3/12	284-3821
4	ST MIDI Connection	ST	2400	452-7535
5	Emerald City BBS	ST	1200	475-9498
5	! Computer Blvd.	ST	2400	589-0565
5	Computer Plus BBS	ST	3/12	691-7862
4	* Computer Outlet	ST	2400	282-6815

1 = TCxe, 2 = Forem, 3 = BBS Express
4 = Michtron ST, 5 = Forem ST

(*=Limited hours, !=Magic Sac support)

**For additions or corrections,
please contact the editor...**

8-bit Gazette
Ron Miller, Atari 8-bit VP

Following news covers the September 1987 Board meeting and the October 1987 8-bit meeting.

1. Financial statements - any currently paid up member is welcome to view the financial books kept by the club treasurer.

2. Club color TV's - when the club seperated the 8-bit and ST meetings, it was agreed that group take posession of a TV. Right now each group does have a color TV to support club activities.

3. Elections - it was agreed that the December meeting would be a general meeting of all members for the purpose of holding elections. The meeting date will be the first Thursday of the month of December, which is the 3rd, and the place will be the North Park Rec Center.

4. Club nesletter - it was agreed that the 8-bit club could be guaranteed at least two full pages in the newsletter. The 8-bit club is also responsible for those two pages, i.e., if the newsletter editor does not get any input from the 8-bit side, the editor is not required to place any 8-bit news in the newsletter. Thus, the 8-bit club is looking for an 8-bit co-editor to take care of their portion of the newsletter. If any 8-bit members are interested, they should contact Ron Miller, at 748-7195.

5. October meeting - Approximately twelve people attented. Ron Miller discussed Atari graphics and plotting to a printer or pen plotter. Ed Woods discussed and demonstrated his image capture ComputerEyes using a color camera, recorder and image capture system. Many members have never had a chance to see this kind of hardware before.

6. Buy and Sell - There were some good hardware and software purchases. An Atari 822 thermal printer went out the door for $18. Original software packages traded in the range of $5-$15.

7. November meeting - the theme is sound. We will discuss sound generation and some uses. We should have some fun with some music programs and some wild sounds.

(Editor's note: the date for the next 8-bit meeting is November 5th. Please be there, so we can avoid the problem of having too few members present. It's extremely important to the health of the 8-bit SIG that you attend as often as possible. Thanks)

Desktop Pen Plotters

The Microcomputer user basically has available two types of plotting devices. One is the printer which can plot pictures using patterns of printed dots. For some pictures (such as digitized pictures from a TV camera) this is a very good mechanism.

The second plot device is a pen plotter, which can plot pictures by dragging an ink pen across paper. For pictures made of lines (such as building floor plans), then pen plotter is probably a better plotting device because it can draw true lines. The pen plotter can also draw one picture on top of another without destroying either picture. With the correct software, plotting to either printers or pen plotters is equally easy. And often a pen plotter uses the same cable and computer port as a printer, making the pen plotter look like a printer to the computer.

There have been at least two good cheap pen plotters on the market during the last year. One is the Epson 4 color pen plotter which was available from Jade Computer or about $200.00. The other is the Mannesmann Tally Pixy 3 three color pen plotter which was available from Jade for about $200.00. While the following discussions pertain to the Pixy 3, other pen plotters operate in a similar fashion.
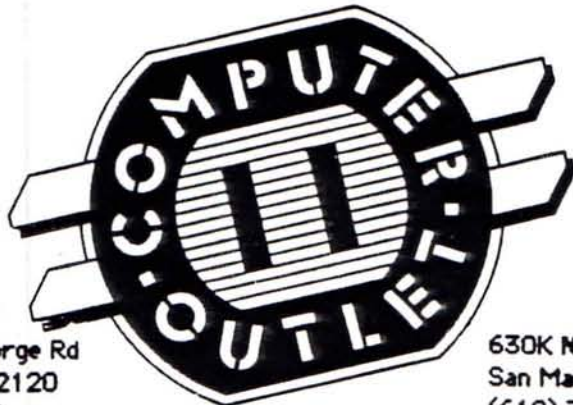
The Pixy 3 has a plotting surface of 2450 pixels horizontal by 1800 vertical. It can draw an exact straight line from any pixel to any other. Pixels are 0.1 milimeters apart (about .025 inches). Pixy 3 can change pens under program control. On command it can draw different line types (solid, dashed, dotted, etc.), circles, (specify center and radius), spline curves (twisty smooth curve through any number of points), fonts (different alphabets), axis (x and y with varying tick marks), grids, rotated text, auto scales, and more.

Controlling Pixy 3 from BASIC, for example, can be done with LPRINT. You might LPRINT "M 100, 200" which moves the pen to position 100,200 on a plotting surface of 2450 by 1800. LPRINT "W 500, 600, 200, 200" would draw a circle at x=500, y=600 with radius=200. LPRINT "J1" will pick up pen #1. LPRINT "J0" will put all pens back in their holder. In BASIC it is handy to build up a library of string variables containing select printer commands, since all plotter commands are sent with LPRINT. Plotting from other languages is done using the printer command for that language.

(Editor's note: Don't forget the remarkable Atari 1020 4-color plotter, which can be had used for $15-$30. The print quality of this 40-column direct-connect (no interface required) plotter is really great, with many of the above mentioned features.)

Run AtariWriter Plus with SpartaDos

By Milt Ingram
Reprinted from the PAC Newsletter

AtariWriter Plus is great, but...

Every time I use it I have unkind thoughts that the people at Atari who seem to be to be determined to prevent me from using some of the features I like best abuot my 800XL. These include a 256K expanded memory and U.S. Doubler equipped 1050 drives used with the SpartaDos disk operating system. I could have a 128K Ramdisk to allow rapid switching between several files. I could use double density for added file capacity and time/date stamping of files, using the R-Time 8 Cartridge or the SpartaDos clock.

Unfortunately, none of this seemed possible because of the way AtariWriter Plus was supplied with a copy protected "boot" disk. Then, along came the article by Carolyn Hoglin in the July Antic magazine, explaining how she adapted the program to run with TOPDOS. I determined that I would do the same for SpartaDos and include the Ramdisk and time and date stamped files. I chose not to alter the original AtariWriter Plus disk, but came up with a method which uses a batch file to perform the ntire boot operation. A disk swap is necessary, but everything else is auto-matic.

Here's how it can be done: First, initialize a SpartaDos disk using X32D. DOS (SpartaDos version 3.2), and copy the SpartaDos files ED.COM and TDLINE.COM to it. Then, onto this same disk copy the AUTORUN.SYS file from the AtariWriter Plus disk and rename it WRITE.COM. Finally, create the following STARTUP.BAT (batch) file:

```
TDLINE
RD D3: /E
COPY WRITE.COM D3:

; REMOVE BOOT DISKAND INSERT
; ATARIWRITER PLUS DISK IN DRIVE 1

;
PAUSE
TD OFF
BASIC OFF
D3:WRITE
```

When this disk is booted it performs the following operations:

TDLINE - sets a time and date clock from the R-Time 8 Cartridge. If you don't have one of these, use the TIME and DATE commands to initialize the clock and calendar.

RD D3: /E - set up and formats a Ramdisk in the top 128K of memory. Note that this leaves 128K available to run the 130XE version of AtariWriter Plus.

COPY WRITE.COM D3: - copies the program WRITE.COM (the autorun sys loader program from the AtariWriter Plus disk) to the Ramdisk (D3:).

The next two lines are a prompt to replace the boot disk with the AtariWriter Plus disk.

PAUSE - prints a promt PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE after swapping disks.

TD OFF - turns off the screen display of time and date, but leaves the internal clock active to time/date stamp disk files.

BASIC OFF - turns off BASIC. Don't have to hold down the OPTION key during boot.

D3:WRITE - loads and runs the loader program from Ramdisk. It then loads AtariWriter Plus from Drive 1.

LOAD and SAVE will now work with either single or double desnsity disks. Double density disks will need to be formatted ahead of time. The built-in FORMAT command works from the DUP SYS file on the disk and produces only DOS 2 format. (This will still work, as SpartaDos can read most Atari formats, but you will lose the extra capacity). Also, the INDEX command will show the disk directory in DOS 2 format, without the time and date. However, the information is there and can be read with the normal SpartaDos DIR command.

'Oh, You're in Computers? Say Something in Fortran.'

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The November 8-bit meeting will be **Thursday, November 5th**, (the first Thursday of the month, as always), at the meeting place in Mira Mesa, at the Woods Clubhouse on Baywood, near Mira Mesa Blvd (see map in the June *I/O Connector* or call editor for directions). ST workshop/Magic Sac SIG will be same time and date as the 8-bit meeting, at North Park Rec Center, 2719 Howard Ave, in the Adult Room. The Oct ST SIG meeting will be on **Monday, October 19th**, Nov ST meeting will be **Monday, November 16th** at 6:30, also in the North Park Rec Center, in the Social Room. Mark your calendar and show up!!!